'I Beg You to Be On Guard Lest You Or a Loved One Be Killed'

Letter Written To Gov. Connally Told of Plot To Assassinate Him

Both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Texas Department of Public Safety had repeatedly been forewarned that an assassination attempt would be made in Dallas.

Some of the advance threats have been made public previously. One originated in Miami and a police undercover man tape-recorded a conversation telling of plans to kill President John F. Kennedy with a high-powered rifle on Nov. 22, 1963.

Now a well-known Kennedy researcher has turned up documents in the National Archives telling with eerie pinpoint accuracy what would occur in Dallas.

Classified for years, the documents were located in the Archives by Richard H. Popkin, professor of philosophy at Washington University in St. Louis and author of "The Second Oswald."

THE LETTER WAS written to Texas Gov. John Connally by Edward F. Bray of Portland, Oregon, on Aug. 12, 1963, three months before Kennedy was assassinated and Connally was wounded by shots fired into the open top limousine in which they were riding in Dallas.

The letter was presumably turned over to the DPD, which is in charge of providing security for the governor.

Connally had served as Secretary of the Navy under President Kennedy. He was replaced by another Texan, Fred Korth, when Connally left the cabinet to run for governor of Texas.

Bray, in the letter to Connally, listed himself as a "field engineer," wrote that a plot was being hatched against Connally because he was being blamed for the April 10, 1963 Thresher disaster.

THE SUBMARINE sank off the New England coast, killing 129 men in the worst such naval disaster in history.

"A plot is under way to assassinate you," Bray says in the document that is now public record.

"As a former Secretary of the Navy you are well aware of the Submarine Thresher disaster and how the Bendix Corp. used fraudulent pressure depth curves on equipment designed and built by Bendix for submarines of the Thresher class.

"An organization, known as THE JUSTICE FOR THE CREW OF THE THRESHER is being formed. Former servicemen, with a grudge against the military, are being recruited. There are two groups of this organization, one in Dallas, Texas, and the other in Columbus, Ohio.

"Sir, I BEG of you, if you do visit Dallas and ride in an open car, PLEASE do not allow any of your loved ones to ride in an open car with you.

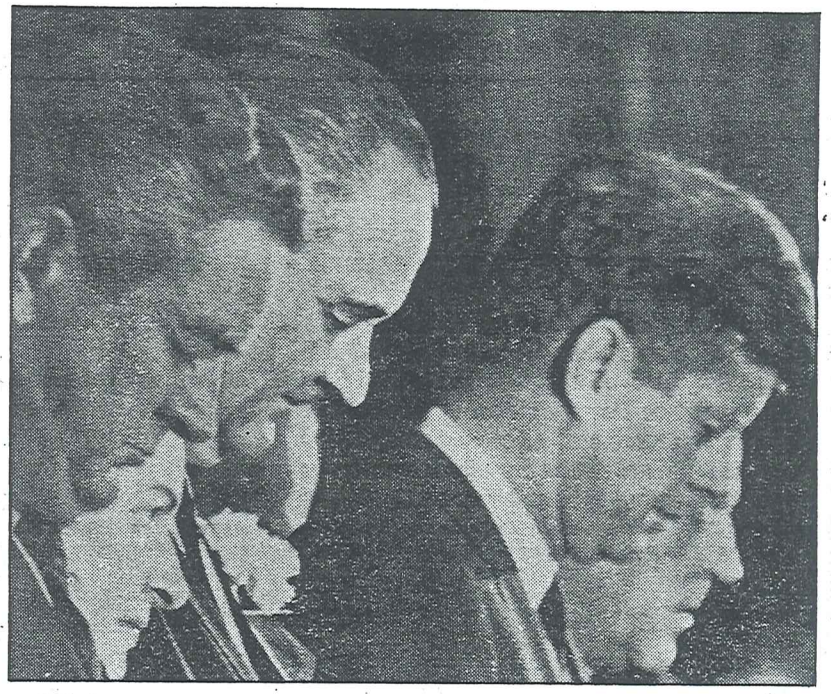
"IF A SNIPER'S bullett (sic), meant for you, was fired from a high-powered rifle by one of these disgruntled former servicemen struck one of your loved ones, instead of you, STOP and ask yourself, would I be able to carry this tragedy with me the balance of my life?

'Respectfully yours'

Thirteen months after this letter was written, ten months after Kennedy was killed and Connally was wounded, the Warren Commission concluded:

A disgruntled former serviceman named Lee Harvey Oswald was a sniper who fired three shots from a highpowered rifle in Dallas, two of the shots finding their marks.

Recent attempts to locate Bray have been unsuccessful.



THE MORNING OF THE FATEFUL DAY began on solemn note as President Kennedy, Vice President Johnson and Gov. Connally (left) bowed their heads in prayer at a breakfast to kickoff the Kennedy tour of Dallas.